THURSTON BAY MARINE PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

February 2003

Approved by:

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Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: Feb. 2003

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Date: March 11, 2003

THURSTON BAY MARINE PROVINCIAL PARK
Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role
The **primary** role of Thurston Bay Marine Park is to provide a marine recreation experience for boaters traveling the Inside Passage. The Inside Passage is a popular route for long distance boaters heading to the North Coast or Alaska and safe anchorages with a natural setting have been established for this purpose. The park is at the junction of Johnstone Strait and Discovery Passage and is the only marine park in the Johnstone Strait, although a number of others have been proposed by the Central Coast Land and Resource Management Plan.

Thurston Bay Marine Park is on the northwest side of Sonora Island, and has two separate portions -- one bordering and in part of Thurston Bay and the other bordering Cameleon Harbour. Access is by boat only and the park provides day use recreational opportunities such as swimming, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, hiking, and beach activities. There are no facilities, except for a rustic trail that leads to Florence Lake.

Secondary Role
The **secondary** role is to protect the natural environment. Given the size of this area, Thurston Bay Marine Park makes a small contribution to the representation of the under-represented Coastal Western Hemlock xm2 biogeoclimatic variant, which has only 4% protected provincially. This ecosystem has been highly modified and not much remains intact. Thurston Bay Park also contributes to the representation of the Outer Fiordland Ecosection (OUF) and the Johnstone Strait *Marine* Ecosection (JS), both of which are under-represented in the protected areas system.

The park and nearby areas serve as habitat for salmon (especially pinks), groundfish, clams, and harbour porpoises.

Tertiary Role
The **tertiary** role of the park is to protect cultural values which capture a sample of the settlement patterns on the coast and several archaeological sites.

Management Issues

Known Management Issue	Response
Lack of a contiguous boundary, lack of significant foreshore, missing key features such as the lagoon	➢ Pursue additions through the Central Coast LRMP
Private land between two park sites	➢ Pursue acquisition of private land to increase the integrity of the park.
Unknown natural (both marine and terrestrial) and cultural values	➢ Undertake a natural resources inventory for both terrestrial and marine components. ➢ Undertake cultural inventory and traditional use study of whole park in conjunction with First Nations.
Adjacent land uses (logging, log boom and sort area, development of inholdings, and	➢ Work with adjacent land owners, Ministry of Forests and industry to ensure park values are taken into

aquaculture) impacting park values	consideration during forestry and other types of development.

Zoning

Natural Environment Zone – covers the entire park (389 ha). The objective of this zone is to protect scenic values and to provide recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

Conservation

Representation - ecosection	☒	Thurston Bay Marine Park makes a small contribution of 2.15% to the under-represented Outer Fiordland Ecosection (OUF), which has only 3.3% protected provincially. It also contributes minimally (0.86%) to the Johnstone Strait *Marine* Ecosection (JS), which has only 3.7% protected.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	☒	Thurston Bay Marine Park makes a small contribution of 1.6% to the overall representation of CWHxm2, which has only 4.13% protected. Any representation of this ecosystem is important due to its fragmented nature and the limited opportunities available for protection.
Special Feature	☐	Values not well known
Rare/Endangered Values	☐	None known at this time
Scientific/Research Opportunities	☐	None known at this time

Recreation

Representation		
backcountry	☐	Not Applicable
destination	☒	Safe anchorage for boaters
travel corridor	☒	Marine route - Inside Passage and Johnstone Strait
local recreation	☐	Low level of use
Special Opportunities	☐	None known at this time
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	☐	None known at this time

Cultural Heritage

Representation	☐	Values not well known
Special Feature	☒	Archeological sites, abandoned settlement of the Forest Service

Other Management Considerations

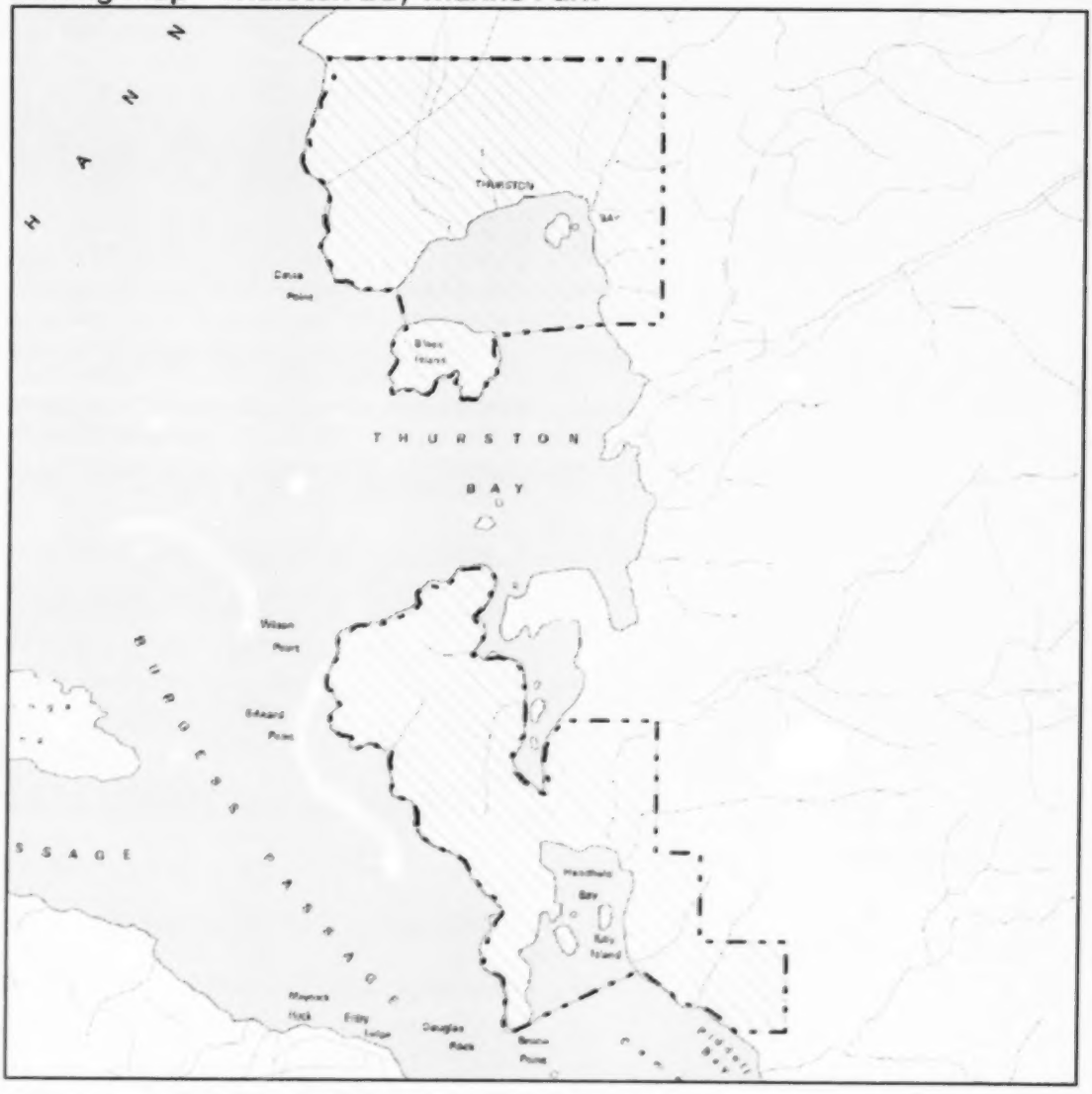
Other Designations	☐	Not Applicable
Relationship to other PAs	☒	Part of a system of protected areas and anchorages along the Inside Passage

Co-operative Management Arrangements	☒	Commercial fishery closure specific to the park: Pacific oyster
Partnerships	☐	Not Applicable
Vulnerability	☒	Small size limits the ability to protect natural values
Relationship to other Strategies	☒	Possible addition through the Central Coast Land and Resource Management Plan; part of the Marine Protected Areas Strategy

Area: 389 hectares (309 ha upland; 80 ha foreshore)

Date of establishment: April 23, 1970

Zoning Map - Thurston Bay Marine Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83

Natural Environment
Protected Area Boundary

0 1
km

Produced in Feb 2003 for Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection by MSRM, Decision Support Services

This is a visual representation only and should not be used for legal purposes.